

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Office Action dated April 10, 2007, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 2-3 and 10-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 5,961,604 (Anderson) in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,299,538 (McIntyre) and in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,271,845 (Richardson).

Claims 4-9, 12-16, 18, and 22-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anderson in view of McIntyre, in view of Richardson, in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,456,306 (Chin).

Claims 4 and 12 have been canceled without prejudice, rendering the rejections of these claims moot.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the telephone interview conducted on August 16, 2007. During that interview, amendments to the claims and the art of record were discussed. The substance of amendments to the independent claims, although not the specific amendments made above, were discussed and the Examiner tentatively agreed that the amended claims would distinguish over the art of record. Applicants' respectfully assert that the independent claims have been amended in accordance with the telephone interview and thus believe that the pending claims are in condition for allowance.


Applicants have added new claims 25-26, that depend respectively from independent claims 2 and 10. These claims do not add new subject matter. Applicants believe that claims 25 and 26 are patentable for at least the reasons that independent claims 2 and 10, respectively, are patentable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 858-350-6100.

Respectfully submitted,


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